

Message Text

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FOR EAGLEBURGER FROM S/PRS - BROWN

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN, OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.)

SUBJECT: ASSOCIATED PRESS WIRE STORY ON VIETNAM
ADMISSION TO UNITED NATIONS

"UNITED NATIONS, N.Y. (AP) -- THE SECURITY COUNCIL AGREED
TODAY TO POSTPONE DEBATE ON U.N. MEMBERSHIP FOR VIETNAM
UNTIL AFTER THE U.S. PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION IN AN APPARENT
EFFORT TO AVOID AN AMERICAN VETO.

"BY RETURNING TO THE QUESTION AFTER PRESIDENT FORD HAS
WON A NEW TERM OR DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATE JIMMY CARTER HAS
BEEN ELECTED, COUNCIL MEMBERS EVIDENTLY HOPE THE U.S.
GOVERNMENT WILL NO LONGER BE UNDER DOMESTIC POLITICAL
PRESSURE TO MAINTAIN A HARD LINE AGAINST HANOI.

"THE FRENCH DELEGATION INITIATED THE POSTPONEMENT WITH THE
REPORTED CONCURRENCE OF THE VIETNAMESE, BUT INFORMED U.N.
SOURCES SAID AMERICAN OFFICIALS ASKED FRENCH OFFICIALS LAST
WEEK IN PARIS TO SEEK THE POSTPONEMENT. U.S. OFFICIALS AT
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THE UNITED NATIONS DENIED THIS.

"SECRETARY OF STATE HENRY A. KISSINGER WAS IN PARIS LAST WEEK.

"U.S. AMBASSADOR WILLIAM SCRANTON ANNOUNCED IN WASHINGTON MONDAY AFTER A MEETING WITH THE PRESIDENT THAT HE HAD BEEN DIRECTED TO VETO THE VIETNAMESE APPLICATION FOR U.N. MEMBERSHIP BECAUSE HANOI HAS FAILED TO ACCOUNT FOR ABOUT 800 AMERICANS STILL LISTED AS MISSING IN ACTION IN VIETNAM.

"DEMOCRATIC NOMINEE CARTER SAID HE AGREED WITH FORD'S DECISION TO BLOCK VIETNAM'S MEMBERSHIP.

"IT HAD BEEN EXPECTED THAT ALL MEMBERS OF THE 15-NATION SECURITY COUNCIL EXCEPT THE UNITED STATES WOULD SUPPORT VIETNAM'S APPLICATION. BUT THE UNITED STATES IS ONE OF FIVE MAJOR POWERS WITH VETO RIGHTS OVER DECISIONS OF THE COUNCIL. THE OTHERS ARE CHINA, THE SOVIET UNION, FRANCE AND THE SOVIET UNION.

"AFTER MEETING FOR ONE HOUR AND 15 MINUTES TUESDAY, THE SECURITY COUNCIL SAID THE DEBATE OVER MEMBERSHIP FOR RECENTLY UNIFIED VIETNAM WAS BEING POSTPONED 'TO A DATE IN NOVEMBER SO THAT THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY MAY DISCUSS THE CANDIDACY DURING THE COURSE OF THE 31ST SESSION. THE VIETNAMESE SIDE HAS AGREED TO THIS POSITION.'

"THE REFERENCE TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY WAS REPORTEDLY INSERTED AT THE BEHEST OF PRO-U.S. DELEGATIONS IN ORDER, IT WAS SAID, TO MAKE IT LESS OVVIOUS THAT THE POSTPONEMENT WAS BEING TIMED TO PUT IT PAST THE ELECTION. THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY NORMALLY TAKES UP A MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION ONLY AFTER THE SECURITY COUNCIL HAS RECOMMENDED IT. ROBINSON

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